THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Wednesday, the 9th March 1960.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEATH OF SRI A. B. SHETTY AND DR. MAHOMED USMAN.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is with poignant sorrow that I rise to-day, at the commencement of the meeting, to perform a very melancholy duty as Chairman of this august House. Since we met last, we have lost Sri A. B. Shetty, a former Minister of the composite Madras State, who was also formerly a Member of the Legislative Council, and Dr. Mahomed Usman, a Member of this House and an ex-Governor, both of whom passed away, full of years and honours and part of whose eminent careers was closely identified with this House. I have had the privilege and good fortune of close and intimate friendship with both of them for a long number of years. Sri A. B. Shetty was a personal friend who gave me unstinted co-operation in the discharge of my duties and Dr. Mahomed Usman was truly a friend, philosopher and guide to me. Their death is a grievous personal loss to me, as it is a great loss to this House and the country in general.

Sri A. B. Shetty was elected unopposed twice to the Montford Legislative Council, once in 1926 and again in 1930. He became Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Public Health in the first Congress Ministry of Madras State in 1937. Subsequently, he was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Coondapur Rural Constituency, South Kanara District, and was made the Public Health Minister in the composite Madras State in 1947, which portfolio he held, as Members are aware, with very great and conspicuous distinction and ability till the reorganisation of States in 1956. On the reorganisation of States, he became a Minister of the Mysore State and retired from active politics in 1957. His services to the State as Minister for Public Health in charge of Medical and Public Health Departments are too well-known to the Members of this House to need any recapitulation on my part. He had such a profound and deep knowledge of both these subjects that an impression gained ground that he was a doctor. He endeared himself to one and all by his affability and friendliness. Particularly

during question-hour, he was in his best, ever-ready to answer all questions and any number of supplementaries with full and complete information. He was held in very high esteem and his services were really valuable. We mourn his loss deeply.

Dr. Mahomed Usman was a unique personality in the public life of this State. Born at Madras in 1884 in a family of reputed Unani Doctors and graduated from the Madras Christian College, he entered the Madras Corporation as Councillor as early as 1918 and since then he had a long and unbroken spell of brilliant public career which was rich and varied. From the President of the Madras Corporation to the Membership of the Governor-General's Council, he held very many high offices both in the State and at the Centre and whichever office he held, he held with distinction. He was President of the Madras Corporation in 1924-25. He was Home Member of the Governor's Executive Council for nine long years and eventually became the first Indian Governor of Madras. He was appointed a Member of the Governor-General's Council in 1942 which office he held for four years.

His interests and activities were not entirely political. In the field of education he evinced keen interest. He was a Member of the Senate of the Madras University from 1921 and was Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1940 to 1942. He also evinced great interest in social work. He was President of the Madras Children's Aid Society and the Anjuman and was Chairman of the Madras Branch of the Red Cross Society. As Chairman of the Committee on Indigenous System of Medicine, he produced a very valuable report and the College of Integrated Medicine owes a great deal of its present position to Dr. Mahomed Usman. As the President of the Automobile Association of South India for about fourteen years since 1946, he helped the institution by his guidance and influence to grow from very small origin to a big institution that it is to-day with a membership of over 12,000 and a network of branches all over the Madras State, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala States. Since its inception he was the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Provincial Welfare Fund which collects and distributes funds to hospitals, orphanages and clinics to help the orphans, the sick and the needy. He was also on the Central Committee. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Madras University conferred on him the Honorary Degree of LL.D. in 1957 at the Centenary Convocation. He was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1952 and again in 1954.

Though he held very high offices, he was simple in habits, devout and religious. He prayed six times a day. A cosmopolitan in outlook, he was kind-hearted and loyal to his friends. In his later days, he was looked upon as an elder statesman. The regularity of his attendance at all the meetings of the Council and his presence thereat each day from the commencement till the conclusion of the

9th March 1960] [Mr. Chairman]

business of the day bore testimony to his high sense of duty. He was always for God, Government and the Country. His death is a great loss to the country in general and this House in particular.

I now move the Condolence Resolutions :—

" This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri A. B. Shetty, a former Minister of the composite Madras State and a former Member of the Legislative Council, and conveys its profound sympathy to the members of his bereaved family."

" This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Dr. Mahomed Usman, a Member of this House, and conveys its profound sympathy to the members of his bereaved family."

* THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, I rise to associate the Government with the sentiments of sorrow which you have expressed on the demise of two very distinguished sons of our State. Sri A. B. Shetty was a distinguished Minister. He radiated calmness, kindness and affability wherever he was. You have paid rightly, Sir, a tribute to his versatility and his ability to handle subjects which were not his own. Sri A. B. Shetty was so friendly to everybody that we regarded him as one of the brother-members in this Council as well as in the Assembly. He cultivated friends beyond the circle of his district, South Kanara, and developed a deep and abiding friendship with a number of people from other parts, particularly when we had the composite State of Madras. I associate the Government with the sentiments you have expressed.

In the demise of Dr. Mahomed Usman the country has lost an eminent elder statesman of deep wisdom, of vast experience and patriotism. He held offices which few politicians of India have held altogether. He was the Sheriff and the Mayor. He was the Vice-Chancellor and the Governor, and he was a Member of the Executive Council of the State as well as the Centre. His career has synchronised with the increasing association of the people of India with the administration of the country at that time. He 3-10 p.m.
fitted into every one of the opportunities that were offered to him in that process. By dint of his integrity and his extraordinary ability, he filled every one of the offices he was called upon to occupy with rare distinction and also earned a fund of goodwill from the people whom he had occasion to serve. Dr. Mohamed Usman also contributed a great deal in the post-Independence era to the communal harmony which fortunately prevails in our State. He felt that it was the duty of the Muslim community to work in close co-operation with the other people in the State as well as the country for the common betterment and advancement of the country as a whole. His own personal example and particularly, his moderation in the expression of views relating to very controversial

matters earned for him the respect and regard of all the communities in this State. In the demise of Dr. Usman, this country has suffered a great loss. I do hope that his life would serve as a beacon light for the younger people to emulate. For, it was the shining example of the poetic line, ' the path of duty leads to glory ''. May his soul rest in peace.

* DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Mr. Chairman, I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. the Leader of the House and by you, Sir, as Chairman of the Council.

Sir, it was my great privilege to have been intimately and closely associated with these two great people for a very long period. As you have rightly said, Mr. Shetty was one of the genial personalities who shared a certain amount of affection and regard with whatever person he moved. His cosmopolitan nature far outstripped any ideas of State or provincial borders. As Health Minister, I can say that he was exceedingly anxious to learn and to take ideas for the welfare of the medical profession and for the welfare of the people of the country. Many were the Committees that he constituted and I am sure you will remember that along with you, I had the honour and privilege of working on such committees. What was far more remarkable of Mr. Shetty was that he did not leave it to the committees themselves. He studied every one of the reports of those committees himself and was familiar with the great problems connected with medical education and health. As you have rightly described, people thought that he was a doctor and not infrequently many addressed him as 'Dr. Shetty'. Far from asking the senior members of the profession—though there were unrivalled seniors—he quite often asked the younger members of the profession and people who were striving to make progress, to come to his place and discuss with him what they considered were their problems and troubles. I do know that in that way many Assistant Surgeons and many honorary Surgeons called at his residence. In that way he was able to know what exactly was the nature of their problems and their difficulties. He was not doing it, I know, with a view to bypassing the seniors or the District Medical Officers; far from it. He would always communicate the views expressed by the junior members to the Director of Medical Services. I am mentioning this to stress that he had a remarkable capacity to appreciate what was needed for every section of the personnel dealing with medical education and health problems.

Sir, having attended some of the Health Ministers' conferences that were called from time to time, I know what great regard all the Health Ministers of the country had for Dr. Shetty (laughter). I am sorry, Mr. Shetty. In fact, it was so usual for me to address him many a time as 'Dr.' Shetty that I cannot forget it so easily (Laughter). As a matter of fact, I have heard the former Health

9th March 1960] [Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar]

Minister of the Government of India, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur herself, a rare personality who had administered health matters with conspicuous ability, paying tributes to Mr. Shetty as one who was a most useful Health Minister in every way in the country. His reputation spread far and wide in the country. He was held in high esteem as a statesman and administrator of rare capacity. I am sure that the House on all sides will associate itself with the fine sentiments that you, Mr. Chairman, and the Hon. the Leader of the House have expressed.

As regards Dr. Mahomed Usman, I do not think there is any Member of this House—there could not possibly be any Member—who had known him longer than I knew him. We entered the Madras Christian College on the 8th January 1903 and when he joined what was formerly called the F.A. class, which later corresponded to the Intermediate class, Mahomed Usman was our Monitor for the two years that we were studying there. I can tell you now that at the end of the two years, when a 'good conduct prize' had to be given to the best student of the class, it was unanimously desired by all of us and we all voted that Dr. Usman should be given that prize. Later, he joined the Medical College and for over a couple of years, I had the privilege of having him as my collegemate. But, other circumstances prevented him from continuing the Medical course. Later, he joined his uncle who was one of the most reputed Unani Physicians of India, one who enjoyed a very wide practice and, at the same time, also enjoyed great respect from all communities. Little wonder it is that Dr. Usman was anxious to travel in the footsteps of his great uncle and make himself so admirably loved and respected by everybody.

Sir, as you have said, he had held many high positions, positions which in those days were considered extraordinarily difficult for any Indian to aspire for. Well, when he retired from those high positions and when membership of the Senate and Syndicate of the University was given to him, he who was a Chancellor once, did not hesitate to come and sit down as a Member of the Syndicate and do his work. Once again, it was my privilege to have been associated with him when he was on the Syndicate.

Lastly, when he was the Vice-Chancellor of the University—my colleague here and some others may know—he was an exemplary Vice-Chancellor in every sense of the word. It was when he left that position to become an Executive Councillor of the Government of India that I was asked to take up that responsible post. Let me let out a secret here. It was by the pressure of his strong advice which he was giving me from day to day, I thought I was able to accept that post. My memory is, therefore, crowded with many incidents and instances during this long career of his when he was associated with the public life of this country. As the Hon. the Leader of the House has so well stated, he was a person who

[Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar] [9th March 1960

understood the feelings and views of all sections of the community, who took a cosmopolitan view of life, who cared only for justice and fair play and had a sense and spirit of public service in whatever task he undertook. Day after day, when we came here, we used to see in that last seat, with the goodwill of the three ladies, Dr. Usman sitting for long hours till the meeting concluded and giving us cheer. For more reasons than one, persons of his eminence cannot be easily forgotten. I do, therefore, desire wholeheartedly to associate myself with the sentiments that you, Mr. Chairman, and the Hon. the Leader of the House have expressed. As a mark of respect to the deceased, I am sure you will follow the usual procedure.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now request the hon. Members to stand in silence for a few minutes in memory of the departed souls and pass the resolutions unanimously.

The Resolutions were passed *nem. con.*, all the Members standing in silence for a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I now adjourn the House for the day as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. Mahomed Usman, a Member of this House.

The House will meet again at 3 p.m. on Thursday, the 10th March 1960.

The House then adjourned.

II.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* 144. *Notification issued with* G.O. *Ms. No.* 2913, *Home, dated* 15*th October* 1959, *regarding amendment to rule* 56 *of the Madras Cinemas (Regulation) Rules*, 1957.

* 145. *Notification issued with G.O. R. No.* 745, *Revenue, dated* 6*th November* 1959, *regarding exemption from liability to entertainments tax of the benefit film shows conducted in connexion with the Flag Day Celebrations in December* 1959.

* 146. *Notifications issued with G.O. Ms. No.* 3312, *Home, dated* 23*rd November* 1959, *regarding amendments to rule* 37 *and Form 'A' of the Madras Cinemas (Regulation) Rules*, 1957.

* 147. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No.* 3063, *Industries, Labour and Co-operation (Labour), dated* 5*th August* 1959, *regarding amendment to rule* 54 *of the Madras Plantations Labour Rules*, 1955.

* 148. *Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No.* 4004, *Industries, Labour and Co-operation (Labour), dated* 15*th October* 1959, *regarding amendment to rule* 7 *of the Madras Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Rules*, 1959.